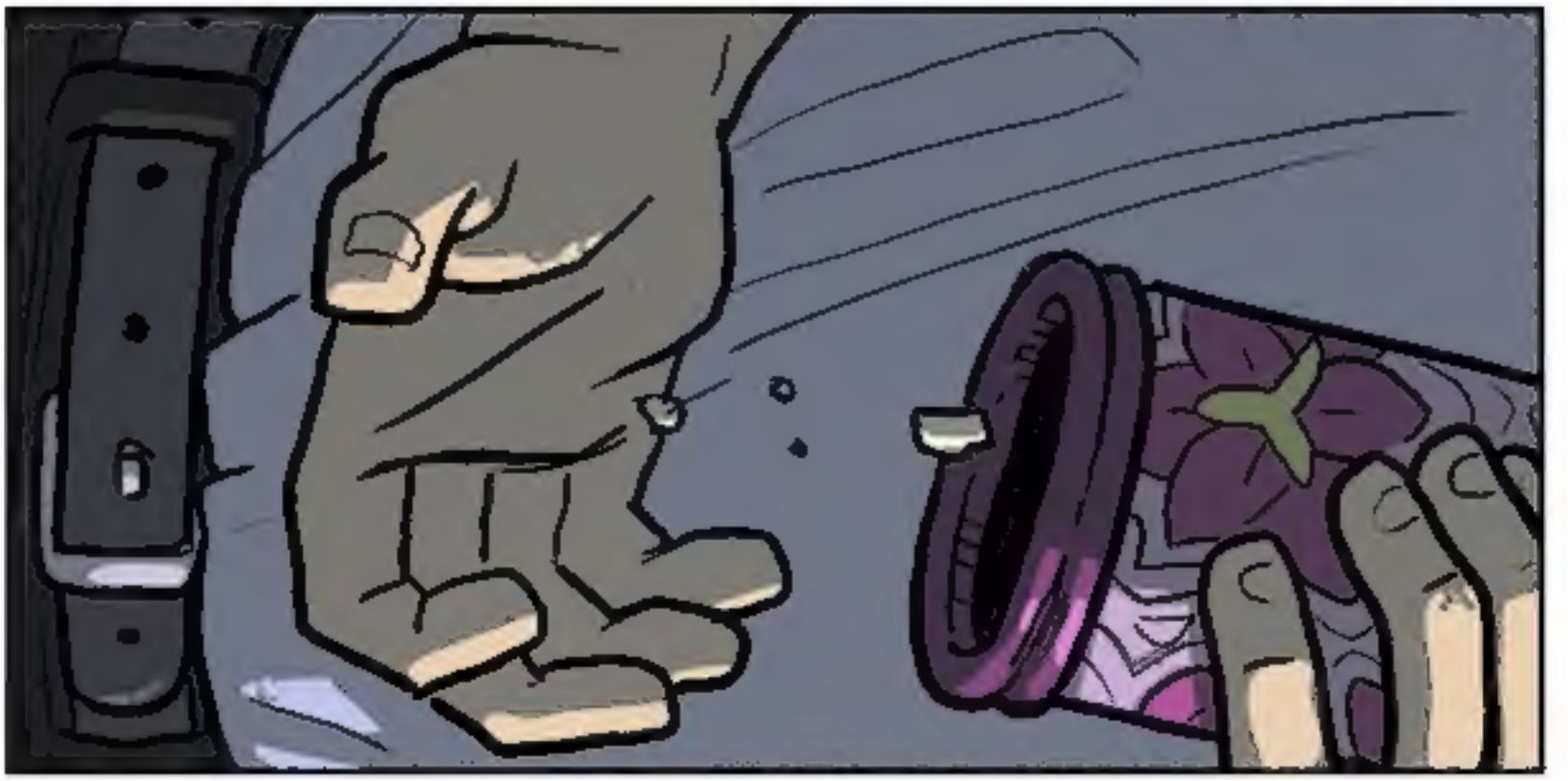
THE SWORD INTERVAL

BY BEN FLEUTER



HIVE

Nice of them to offer to fix my compass, huh?
I am sorry that it was caught up in my proximity.
Dude! It was to take down a huge monster! It's fine, Reggie.
LOST

Hey.
Hey don't worry. You got two kickass monster hunters and a giant golem on the case.
And also Porter.
We're *gonna* get these kids back.

That's a promise, right Reg?
No.

My apologies, but I do not lie.

Yes. Yes I *know*. Look, the necklace was within Reginald's area of effect.
I don't know! We'll think of something else! Until then, I got my eye on her! Are the electronic components still working?

...No. Reginald... didn't have my permission...
No need. I'll sort him out myself.

Alright listen up.
GATOR TOUAS

We're dealing with a Dryad Queen. We've already seen most of what she has to offer. Unfortunately it's the ability to transmute a goddamn *army* of plants.
She's got at least eight kids held captive, and possibly... *hopefully*... she also has Lady Rue.
Do you believe that Slough will leave the children unharmed, Mr. Shimizu?

...Yeah, I do. For now.
Dryads gather in hives. I think she's sorta... looking for surrogate hive members.

Whatever. How do we kill it?
They not teach you in Atlas?
"Verdant" here just spent all that time in the archives. Let him show off.

Sigh...
A dryad is spawned from a tree.

Kill the tree,
kill the dryad.